SOLICITOR GENERAL

VICTIMS' PROGRAMS ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

1991-92

Helping
Communities
Assist
Victims
of Crime

Alberta
SOLICITOR GENERAL

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Office of the Solicitor General

425 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2B6 403/427-2468

June 18, 1992

Honourable Dr. David Carter
Office of the Speaker
325 Legislature Building
EDMONTON, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Dr. Carter:

I have the honour to submit the Victims' Programs Assistance Committee Annual Report for the year ending March 31, 1992.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen C. West
Solicitor General

Printed On Recycled Paper

Alberta
SOLICITOR GENERAL

Office of the Deputy Solicitor General

10th Floor, John E. Brownlee Building, 10365-97 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 3W7 403/427-3437

June 18, 1992

Honourable Stephen C. West
Solicitor General
425 Legislature Building
EDMONTON, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Dr. West:

I have the honour to submit the Victims' Programs Assistance Committee Annual Report for the year ending March 31, 1992.

Respectfully submitted,

Julian Nowicki
Deputy Solicitor General

VICTIMS' PROGRAMS ASSISTANCE ACT

The *Victims' Programs Assistance Act*, proclaimed January 16, 1991, established the Victims' Programs Assistance Fund and provided for the appointment of a Victims' Programs Assistance Committee.

I. Victims' Programs Assistance Committee

Pursuant to section 3 of the *Act*, the Victims' Programs Assistance Committee is appointed by the Solicitor General and makes recommendations on grant applications and programs and services that may benefit victims.

The Committee consists of nine members representing government, non-government, police services and the community at large. Members are appointed for a term of up to two years.

As of March 31, 1992, the composition of the Committee was as follows:

Member	Resides	Expiry of Term
G.W. (Jock) Fyfe, Chairperson	St. Albert	January 16, 1993
Peter Teasdale, Attorney General Department	Edmonton	January 16, 1993
Gloria Ohrt, Solicitor General Department	Edmonton	January 16, 1993
Insp. Phyllis Milligan, Police Service	Edmonton	January 16, 1994
Marquerite Duckworth, Member at large	Calgary	January 16, 1994
Ian Hepher, Member at large	Lethbridge	January 16, 1993
Karen Teare, Member at large	Medicine Hat	January 16, 1994
Carol Trueman, Member at large	Red Deer	January 16, 1994
Richard Smedstad, Member at large	Grande Prairie	January 16, 1994

COMMITTEE STAFF SUPPORT

The Executive Secretary to the Committee is responsible for administrative support and is also Manager, Victims' Programs and Services, Alberta Solicitor General. In this capacity, the Manager works on the implementation of programs and services which benefit victims of crime.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Committee met April 15 and 16, September 4 and 5, November 18 and 19, 1991, and February 10, 1992. Forty-one grant applications from individuals, groups and organizations providing or proposing programs and services that would benefit victims, were reviewed by the Committee. Twenty applications were approved by the Solicitor General for a Victims' Programs Assistance Grant.

II. Victims' Programs Assistance Fund

Section 2 of the *Act* established the Victims' Programs Assistance Fund into which is deposited money collected from fine surcharges imposed by the Courts in Alberta. Under section 717.9 of the *Criminal Code*, where an offender is convicted or discharged under this *Act*, the *Food and Drugs Act* or the *Narcotic Control Act*, the court imposing sentence on or discharging the offender shall, in addition to any other punishment imposed on the offender, order the offender to pay a victim fine surcharge in an amount not exceeding 15 percent of any fine or up to $35 on non-fine dispositions. Also, deposited into the Fund are federal contributions for the purpose of assisting victims, money received from persons or organizations and any interest accrued on fund monies.

This is a revolving fund, separate from the general departmental budget and is allowed to carry over from one fiscal year to the next.

Section 6 of the *Act* provides for payments out of the Fund. This includes grants approved by the Solicitor General, costs incurred by the Committee or to persons whose services are engaged by the Solicitor General and salaries, benefits and other expenditures related to the services of administrators to carry out work required by the Committee. (Included are the salary and benefits of the Executive Secretary and an administrative support staff, program expenses, remuneration and travel expenses of staff and Committee members and related operating expenses.)

For further information, please see financial statement (Appendix "A").

III. Grants

The Victims' Programs Assistance Committee reviewed funding applications four times during the period April 1, 1991 to March 31, 1992. Forty-one applications were reviewed and the following grants were approved by the Solicitor General for a maximum one year term.

Grande Prairie Women's Residence Association **$5,000**

The grant for the Advancing the Perspectives: Building a Foundation conference, May 13, 14 and 15, 1992, in Grande Prairie, will be applied to general conference expenses. Primarily, funding will be used to develop a provincial victims' assistance association. Conference sessions offered relate to domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, elder abuse, robbery trauma, Victim Impact Statement program, police-based victim services, native awareness, critical incident debriefing and care for caregivers. This project also provides an opportunity to lay the foundation for a provincial body of victims' assistance organizations.

Bonnyville Victim Services Unit **$15,000**

The grant will assist in funding a victim services unit which will provide programs and services to victims of crime in the Bonnyville, Grande Centre, Cold Lake area and all districts between, including the Municipal District of Bonnyville. The program will operate out of the Bonnyville RCMP Detachment and will provide assistance to victims of crime, such as crisis support and referral, witness information, bereavement counselling and the Victim Impact Statement program.

Calgary Society for the Investigation of Child Sexual Abuse **$32,450**

The grant will be used to provide a children's group court preparation program. This program will offer services to child victims who have been sexually abused and who are required to appear as witnesses in court. The program will provide children with peer support and sharing. A group format allows for guest speakers, courtroom tours and role playing. The program also includes a support and educational evening for parents.

Central Alberta Sexual Assault Centre of Red Deer **$6,656**

The grant will provide for a part-time staff position to help administer a victim support services program for adults sexually abused as children and adult victims of sexual assault. The primary role of the centre is to provide support and education in the area of sexual assault and to provide referrals for counselling to appropriate agencies. The centre also provides crisis intervention for victims of sexual assault until such time as treatment or counselling can be accessed.

Central Alberta Women's Outreach Society **$28,000**

This grant will provide for operational costs of a program to assist women leaving a shelter to pursue independent living. The program would provide four months of support for women victims of spousal assault who are seeking to live independently. Women would receive assistance in re-entering the workforce, finding accommodation and developing the support systems necessary to establish independence.

Cochrane RCMP and Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) **$16,540**

The grant will provide services or programs for victims of crime and will assist in hiring civilian staff to provide research and training. A local community-based victims' assistance committee will be developed and program direction determined by a needs assessment. Volunteers will be recruited and trained to provide victim services, to deliver the Victim Impact Statement program and to offer crime prevention and education to the community.

Edmonton Police Service **$8,750**

The grant will provide for the production of a victim impact statement training video. The production will be a cooperative effort involving Edmonton Police Service, RCMP and the Alberta Solicitor General and will be distributed to police services throughout the province to assist in training victim services unit coordinators, volunteers and police members.

Fort McMurray Victim Service Unit **$33,930**

The grant will provide salary and benefits for an executive director. The victim service unit provides services to victims of crime in Fort McMurray. Services include family violence prevention, residential security, court procedures, child welfare, suicide prevention, sexual assault prevention, bereavement counselling and the Victim Impact Statement program.

Grande Prairie RCMP Victim Assistance Program Association **$23,975**

The grant will provide for a coordinator's assistant. The grant will also assist Grande Prairie RCMP in providing services to victims of crime and trauma, providing community education and awareness, developing a manual to help other victims' assistance programs and delivering the Victim Impact Statement program.

Leduc and District Victim Assistance Society **$16,000**

The grant will provide for the continuation and enhancement of operation of the current victim assistance program. The Leduc and District Victim Assistance Society is police-based, but operates with a civilian coordinator and a Board of Directors. Included in the program is intervention, assistance, information, the Victim Impact Statement program, referral and support services to victims of crimes and tragedy. The program operates out of the RCMP Detachment and victims are referred by the RCMP and other emergency response agencies.

Lethbridge City Police **$30,000**

The grant will provide for a full-time civilian coordinator to administer a victim assistance unit. The unit would provide support services to victims of crime. The police will hire a full-time civilian coordinator to administer the program, train volunteers and coordinate the victim assistance unit. The unit's services will involve victims of crime, the Victim Impact Statement program, found/apprehended children and all other related police service needs.

Medicine Hat Police Service **$24,000**

The grant will provide for expanding services to deliver family violence initiatives, the Victim Impact Statement program, elder services and court orientation. The Medicine Hat victim assistance unit works in cooperation with the Medicine Hat Police Service to provide emergency response, information and referrals. The unit is comprised mainly of volunteers working in conjunction with a civilian coordinator.

PACE (Providing Assistance, Counselling and Education) **$30,000**

The grant will help to improve the Victim Support Services program which includes crisis intervention, court preparation, court accompaniment and follow-up support service for adults who were sexually abused as children and adult victims of sexual assault. The agency, with the assistance of a volunteer component, provides crisis intervention, information, support, referral and counselling services to victims and offenders of sexual assault, abuse and suicide. The agency also offers an educational awareness component and the "Intra Familial Child Abuse Treatment" program.

RCMP "K" Division **$6,000**

A grant will help to purchase a portable display unit. The portable unit will be used to display materials from Alberta Solicitor General Family Violence Initiatives and Victims' Programs and Services. The purpose of the project is to promote police victims' services initiatives at trade fairs, exhibitions, detachment meetings, etc. Volunteers or members will occupy the booth where the display is located.

Red Deer RCMP **$11,560**

The grant will allow the victim service unit to expand their program to provide 24-hour service to victims of crime and tragedy in the Red Deer area. The program will rely primarily on volunteers who will supply support, information and referral. Red Deer RCMP delivers the Victim Impact Statement program.

Redwater Victim Services Unit **$20,000**

The grant will provide the salary of a victim services unit coordinator and related operating costs in establishing a victim services unit in Redwater. The victim services unit would provide the Victim Impact Statement program and services to victims of crime in Redwater, villages of Thorhild and Radway, County of Thorhild and 20 percent of the Municipal District of Sturgeon.

Sherwood Park RCMP Victim Services Unit **$24,820**

The grant will provide for the position of full-time civilian coordinator. The victim services unit will deliver the Victim Impact Statement program and will provide assistance, support, information and referral to victims of crime and tragedy in the Strathcona County.

Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton **$38,000**

The grant will provide court preparation and counselling services for child and adolescent victims of sexual assault who do not have child welfare status. The agency provides a 24-hour crisis line and counselling programs to sexual assault victims. The agency also provides community education and prevention programs. Referrals will come from police, victims' services, community support and social service agencies, adolescent institutions and facilities, and health care facilities.

Volunteer Programs Association, Fort Saskatchewan **$13,500**

The grant will provide for a part-time victim services unit coordinator and travel expenses. The victim services unit provides the Victim Impact Statement program and assistance and support services to victims referred by the RCMP Detachment in Fort Saskatchewan.

Yellowhead Emergency Shelter for Women **$30,000**

The grant will provide for two half-time outreach workers. The Yellowhead Emergency Shelter for Women Society provides a refuge and support system for women and children who are victims of family violence and for women in crisis. The shelter serves small

towns and rural areas in the Yellowhead region. The outreach workers provide support to those not comfortable with using the shelter, those unable to come to the shelter and those past needing to stay at the shelter but still needing support.

IV Other Activities

A. Victim Impact Statement Program

In 1986, the Department of Justice, as part of Canada's contribution to the international victims' movement and as an aid to federal policy development, initiated six demonstration projects across the country to find a way to assist victims of crime to give a personal written account of their response to crimes committed against them. This study provided the foundation for the Victim Impact Statement.

Bill C-89, passed by the House of Commons in May 1988, included amendments to the *Criminal Code* which addressed many of the issues of victims. Section 735 (1.1) of the *Criminal Code*, provides for the Victim Impact Statement which the Court may consider for the purpose of determining sentence. The Statement is prepared by the victim of an offence and describes the harm done or loss suffered by the victim arising from the commission of an offence. The Statement is prepared, in writing, in form and in accordance with the procedures established by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council of the province. (Appendix "B")

An interdepartmental committee including representation from the Department of the Attorney General, Criminal Justice and Court Administration Divisions, RCMP and municipal police services was established to examine the findings of the Federal Justice demonstration projects, to review program descriptions nationally and internationally and to recommend a delivery model for Alberta.

The Victim Impact Statement form, information brochure and provincial guidelines for program delivery were developed. Eight locations served by RCMP and municipal police services were selected to pilot the program. Currently the Victim Impact Statement program is delivered by RCMP and municipal police services in 14 locations in Alberta: Calgary, Camrose, Cochrane,

Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Fort Saskatchewan, Grande Prairie, Leduc, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, Sherwood Park, Stony Plain and Redwater.

The printing costs for forms, brochures and envelopes are covered by the Victims' Programs Assistance Fund. The Victim Impact Statement form allows the victim to describe to the Court the harm done or loss suffered as a result of a crime. Included with the Statement is a brochure (which explains how the Statement is to be completed) and an envelope with the address of the police service. Forms and brochures are obtained from the police service (victim services unit volunteer or police member) and completed forms are returned to the police service. The completed form is retained by the police until a charge is laid. At that time, the original and two copies of the Statement are placed in a large blue envelope and forwarded to the Clerk of the Court. It is attached to the Court Information and retained on the Court file until conviction at which time the Court may consider it for the purpose of determining sentence.

B. Victim Service Training

Victim services unit coordinators in consultation with the Alberta Solicitor General and the Victims' Programs Assistance Committee have identified a need for a training program. A training committee has been established with representation from municipal and RCMP-based victim services units. The mandate of the committee is to identify training needs of victim services unit coordinators, victim services unit volunteers and police members. Training programs are being developed and the first victim services unit coordinators' training program will be delivered at the Alberta Solicitor General Staff College September 14 through 25, 1992. Victim services unit coordinators will be provided with a training manual to deliver to volunteers in their respective areas. Provincial recognition of victim services unit volunteers is planned for December 1992.

Edmonton Police Service has received a grant to produce a victim impact statement training video. The production is a cooperative venture involving Edmonton Police Service, RCMP "K" Division and the Alberta Solicitor General. The video will be distributed to Alberta police services to assist in training victim services unit coordinators, volunteers and police members.

3. Needs Assessment for Victims of Crime

The Victims' Programs Assistance Committee is currently undertaking a needs assessment. By examining services currently available for victims, the groups, individuals and organizations surveyed will identify those services that are needed but not available. The needs assessment will assist the Committee in determining funding priorities for 1992/93, raising awareness of the needs of victims, as well as raising community awareness regarding the Victims' Programs Assistance Committee and the Victims' Programs Assistance Fund.

4. Newsletter

The first edition of a biannual provincial newsletter was published in March 1992 and distributed to police and community-based victim service providers, Crown prosecutors, Clerks of the Court and the judiciary. The newsletter provides information and ideas contributed by professional staff and volunteers throughout Alberta. Each issue will include an updated inventory of programs which focus primarily on providing services to victims of crime in Alberta.

VICTIMS' PROGRAMS
ASSISTANCE TRUST FUND
BALANCE SHEET

AS AT MARCH 31, 1992
(with comparative figures for 1991)

The accompanying notes are part of these financial statements.

	1992	1991
ASSETS		
Cash	$ 1 338 523	$ 755 105
Accounts Receivable	$ 332 609	544 685
	$ 1 671 132	**$ 1299 790**
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		
Accounts Payable	$ 107 476	$ 7 522
Fund Balance	$ 1 563 656	$ 1 292 268
	$ 1 671 132	**$ 1 299 790**

VICTIMS' PROGRAMS
ASSISTANCE TRUST FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUE,
EXPENDITURES AND FUND
BALANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
MARCH 31, 1992
(with comparative figures for 1991)

The accompanying notes are part of these financial statements.

	1992	1991
REVENUE		
Fine surcharge	$ 667 958	$ 800 103
Interest	$ 98 978	$ 9 787
Federal Contribution (89/91)		$ 489 900
	$ 766 936	**$ 1299 790**
EXPENDITURE		
Committee Members - Remuneration	$ 10 995	$ 4 390
Committee Members - Travel	$ 11 826	$ 3 132
Staff Salaries, Wages and Benefits	$ 90 531	
Administration and Office Supplies	$ 13 124	
Data Processing Equipment	$ 3 821	
Grants	$ 365 251	
	$ 495 548	**$ 7 522**
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	$ 271 388	$ 1 292 268
FUND BALANCE BEGINNING OF YEAR	$ 1 292 268	$ 0
	$ 1 563 656	**$ 1292 268**

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 1991

Note 1:

The accounts for 1992 are subject to audit by the Auditor General.

Notes 2:

Authority

The Victims' Programs Assistance Act which provides the authority to set up the Victims' Programs Assistance Trust Fund was proclaimed on January 16, 1991.

Note 3:

Significant Accounting Policies and Reporting Practices

a) General

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

b) Changes in Financial Position

A statement of changes in financial position is not provided as disclosure in these financial statements is considered to be adequate.

c) Administration Expenses

Salary and other costs incurred in the administration of the Fund are to be paid out of the General Revenue Fund. The Fund will reimburse the General Revenue Fund for these costs when determined payable by the Solicitor General.

Note 4:

Federal Agreement

The Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement dated June 28, 1988, whereby the Government of Canada pays $0.10 per capita on June 1 of each year to Alberta to develop and/or provide services and programs to victims of crime. This amount is the 1989-90 contribution and 1990-91 estimated claim. The agreement expired May 31, 1991.

APPENDIX "B"

Alberta
ORDER IN COUNCIL

APPROVED AND ORDERED,

Gordon Towers

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

O.C. 228/91

March 28, 1991

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

Upon the recommendation of the Honourable the Solicitor General, the Lieutenant Governor in Council, pursuant to section 735(1.2) of the Criminal Code (Canada), designates the Victims' Programs and Services Program under the Department of the Solicitor General as having the authority to establish the form and procedures respecting a statement referred to in section 735(1.1) of the Criminal Code (Canada), effective April 1, 1991.

Don R. Getty

CHAIRMAN